

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

September 17, 2019

**Proclaiming September 2019 as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month**

Suicide is the third leading cause of death for children 10 to 14 years of age, and the second leading cause of death for people 15 to 34 years of age. Nearly 47,000 individuals died by suicide in 2017 alone, leaving behind their friends and family members to navigate the tragedy of loss. Suicide is now recognized as a national public health crisis and it occurs throughout the lifespan.

Mental health conditions are often seen as the cause of suicide, but it is rarely caused by any single factor. Immigration status, housing stress, substance use, job loss, and even declining health can increase the risk of suicide. Moreover, rates of suicide are significantly higher among youth who identify as LGBTQ and for children who have experienced bullying and/or are victims of abuse.

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, which serves as a reminder of the crucial need to increase education and resources, as well as improve responsiveness to help prevent and reduce the rates of premature deaths due to suicide. Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) has raised awareness about

**MOTION**

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

KUEHL \_\_\_\_\_

BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

HAHN \_\_\_\_\_

Suicide Prevention by providing outreach to schools, places of worship, and workplaces. DMH, along with County partners, have hosted trainings on suicide prevention and best practices for suicide risk assessments. Their efforts continue to connect individuals to treatment and supportive services.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors proclaims September 2019 as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, to increase awareness and prevention of the suicide deaths in Los Angeles County.

# # #

HLS:jvall